

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A nuclear camera system in which pixel data
is scatter corrected prior to image processing
5 comprising:

an acquisition subsystem which acts to acquire
counts in the vicinity of a photopeak in multiple
energy windows, including a scatter corrector which
acts to correct for scatter in real time by
10 mathematically combining the counts of the multiple
energy windows; and

15 an image processor coupled to the scatter
corrector which produces an image from scatter
corrected count data.

15 2. The nuclear camera system of Claim 1,
wherein the acquisition subsystem acts to
simultaneously acquire counts from multiple
radionuclides producing emissions at different energy
20 levels.

25 3. The nuclear camera system of Claim 2,
wherein the radionuclide producing emissions at the
higher energy level produces background scatter at
the photopeak at the lower energy level.

4. The nuclear camera system of Claim 3,
wherein the radionuclides are used in a stress study.

30 5. The nuclear camera system of Claim 4,
wherein the radionuclides are Tc and Tl.

35 6. The nuclear camera system of Claim 3,
wherein the radionuclides are used in a lung
perfusion study.

7. The nuclear camera system of Claim 6,
wherein the radionuclides are Tc and Xe.

5 8. The nuclear camera system of Claim 1,
wherein the act of mathematically combining is an
additive process.

10 9. The nuclear camera system of Claim 1,
wherein the act of mathematically combining is a
subtractive process.

15 10. The nuclear camera system of Claim 1,
wherein the scatter corrector acts to correct for
scatter on a pixel by pixel basis.

11. The nuclear camera system of Claim 1,
wherein the multiple energy windows are overlapping.

20 12. The nuclear camera system of Claim 1,
wherein the multiple energy windows occupy adjacent
energy channels.

25 13. A method for performing a nuclear medicine
lung perfusion study comprising:

applying a first carrier labeled with a first
radionuclide to the blood flow system which becomes
distributed in capillaries of the lungs;

30 applying a second carrier labeled with a second
radionuclide to the lungs by inhalation; and

imaging both radionuclides simultaneously with a
gamma camera.

35 14. The method of Claim 13, wherein the first
carrier is macro-aggregated albumin.

15. The method of Claim 14, wherein the first radionuclide is Tc.

5 16. The method of Claim 13, wherein the second carrier is a gas.

17. The method of Claim 16, wherein the second radionuclide is Xe.

10 18. The method of Claim 13, wherein imaging is performed while the second labeled carrier is being applied.

15 19. The method of Claim 13, wherein imaging comprises producing a first nuclear image of a radionuclide distributed in a lung on the basis of blood flow; and

20 producing a second nuclear image of a radionuclide distributed in a lung on the basis of aeration.